

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 299

Expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Infant Mortality
Awareness Month 2009.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 1, 2009

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. BURR) submitted the following resolution;
which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the goals and ideals of National
Infant Mortality Awareness Month 2009.

Whereas infant mortality refers to the death of a baby before
his or her first birthday;

Whereas the United States ranks 29th among industrialized
nations in the rate of infant mortality;

Whereas premature birth, low-birth weight, and shorter ges-
tation periods account for more than 60 percent of infant
deaths in the United States;

Whereas high rates of infant mortality are especially preva-
lent in communities with large minority populations, high
rates of unemployment and poverty, and limited access to
safe housing and medical providers;

Whereas premature birth is a leading cause of infant mortality and, according to the Institute of Medicine, costs the United States more than \$26,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas infant mortality rates can be substantially reduced through community-based services such as outreach, home visitation, case management, health education, and interconceptional care;

Whereas support for community-based programs to reduce infant mortality can result in lower future spending on medical interventions, special education, and other social services that may be needed for infants and children who are born with a low-birth weight;

Whereas the United States Department of Health and Human Services, through the Office of Minority Health, has implemented the “A Healthy Baby Begins With You” campaign;

Whereas public awareness and education campaigns on infant mortality are held during the month of September 2009; and

Whereas September 2009 has been designated as National Infant Mortality Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of National
3 Infant Mortality Awareness Month 2009;

4 (2) supports efforts to educate Americans about
5 infant mortality and its contributing factors;

6 (3) supports efforts to reduce infant deaths,
7 low-birth weight, pre-term births, and disparities in
8 perinatal outcomes;

1 (4) recognizes the critical importance of includ-
2 ing efforts to reduce infant mortality and its contrib-
3 uting factors as part of prevention and wellness
4 strategies; and

5 (5) calls upon the people of the United States
6 to observe National Infant Mortality Awareness
7 Month during September 2009 with appropriate pro-
8 grams and activities.

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